

**Pennsylvania Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
2007 State Criteria**

The following information is an overview of Pennsylvania's criteria for FRPP. This information is intended to be consistent, and does not supersede, the National criteria identified in the FY 2006 Announcement of Program Funding.

Demonstrate ability to acquire alternative easements if proposed easement is not acquired.

- Please indicate your backlog of unfunded easement applications in Pennsylvania that would qualify for FRPP (including numbers, acres, estimated cost, and other relevant information).

NRCS in Pennsylvania will give preference for applications that have significant portion of the administrative work completed for acquisition of an easement.

- An appraisal acceptable to NRCS has been completed (i.e. the appraisal meets the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition)

NRCS in Pennsylvania will allocate available funds as equitably as possible.

- Preference will be given for conservation easements where the Federal share of the purchase is below \$2500 per acre.
- A cap on total Federal FRPP dollars per acre or per farm and/or maximum Federal percent of easement purchase price may be established. If done, this will be done uniformly for all applications.
- Funds may be awarded for less than the requested amount of Federal dollars.
- Funds may be allocated to farms representative of the best farms within a major region of Pennsylvania, taking into consideration the backlog of easement applications and relative costs to protect farmland within each region
- A conservation plan that either meets the RMS level or that NRCS determines will protect the long-term viability of the farm must be developed prior to easement closing

For additional information please refer to:

- Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service (PA NRCS) website
<http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html>
- Availability of Program Funding Notice
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp> or <http://www.grants.gov>